Telecast of superstitious and violent programmes

1731. SHRIMATI MAYA SINGH: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether a number of broadcasters are still telecasting, through cable services, serials full of superstitious or violent content and serials causing fear among children in contravention of Cable Television Network (Regulation) Act, 1995;

(b) whether Government have taken any action against such cable operators; and

(c) if so, the number of cases in which action has been taken in the years 2006 and 2007?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI PRIYARANJAN DASMUNSI): (a) No, Sir. However, certain instances of aberration of general nature have been brought to the notice of the Government.

(b) and (c) All programmes, including serials, of satellite TV channels transmitted or re-transmitted through cable service are required to adhere to the provisions of the Programme/Advertising Codes prescribed under the Cable Television Networks (Regulation) Act, 1995 and rules framed thereunder. The Programme Code *inter alia* prohibits carriage of any programme that encourages superstition, blind belief, denigrates children etc. With a view to look into the violation of the Programme/Advertising Codes, the Central Government has constituted an Inter-ministerial Committee under Section 20 of the Act. The Committee either *suo-motu* or on receipt of complaints, examines cases of violation of the Codes. If any violation is noted by the Committee, the same is communicated to the Government and action is taken against the TV channel as per rules. Although Government from time to time has issued advisories to all the satellite TV channels to strictly adhere to Programme Code and not to telecast horror/supernatural serials or serials encouraging blind belief and superstition and depicting mentally disabled people in a wrong way for alleged violation of Programme and Advertising Code, 166 Show Cause Notices have been issued in 2006-07 which includes violation as referred to at (a) in the question.